

February 19, 1968

Dr. Robert H. Bahmer
Archivist of the United States
The National Archives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. Bahmer,

Your letter of January 30, 1968, is really not responsive to mine of the 17th. It arrived while I was on a trip from which I have just returned.

Nothing in your letter explains why this file was denied me when I asked for it. Every reason for making it available to the New York Times is also a reason for having made it available to me when I requested it. Unless there was some reason for denying it to me when I requested it that did not obtain later when the Times did, this is a case of both improper withholding and discrimination against a single researcher or prejudice in favor of a major newspaper. Journalistically, it is an important and costly discrimination against me. As I at that time declared, I could conceive of no regulation that permitted the withholding of the agreement on the return of the pictures and X-rays said to be those of the Presidential autopsy at the time of my request.

Should there have been such a reason, may I ask what it is? If there was not, may I again ask why this material was denied me and later made available to the New York Times, and why when this happened, it was not sent to me on the basis of equality but was withheld for enough time to deny me the journalistic value in it? The value of scholarship had already been denied me.

I would like to have photocopies of the following documents charged to my account and mailed me at your earliest convenience:

All investigative reports of all services relating to interviews with and/or statements by Ricardo Davis (Rudolph Richard or Richard Rudolph).

The same re: Matt O. Wilson and the Doyle family, of Portland, Ore., with reference to the pictures taken in New Orleans by Doyle, Jr. In this connection, I understand the FBI borrowed this film. It was not in the Archives when I studied the film. Has it been added, especially in connection with the Attorney General's order of 10/31/67? The FBI made a copy, I understand. Please have this request interpreted to cover any individual frames from that movie.

All investigative reports and statements by Laran Eugene Hall, Lawrence Howard and William Seymour aside from those in Document 1553. I know of Hall reports as early as November 1963 and as late as November 1964. In particular, is there a report of any interview with Howard prior to the one in 1953? One is a Watley report.

All reports and statements relating to, or of, the States Rights Party and its members, etc., including those from the Miami police. The States Rights Party also uses the word "National" in its name.

Sincerely yours,